



The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's **EXCITER**

GET INVOLVED

- RARS General Membership meeting: First Tuesday of the month.
- The RARS net meets every night @ 8 p.m. on 146.640.
- The RARS Technical & Trader's net: Saturdays @ 8:30 p.m. or following the RARS net.
- RARS meets for a monthly dinner on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

A huge thank you to everyone who provided communications, SAG vehicles, and other help at any and all of the events in which RARS participates. Check back here for 2013 public service events.

RARS General Meeting

What: RARSfest Update and RARS Awards & Birthday Party

Date: Tuesday, March 5, 2013

Time: Refreshments, 7:00 p.m.; meeting, 7:30 p.m.

Where: First Alliance Church, 4400 Buffaloe Rd., Raleigh, N.C.



For information about the April RARS General Meeting, see p. 4

41st Annual RARSFest

ARRL NC State Convention

Saturday March 30, 2013

**2013 Theme - Emergency Communications
Mobile Command Centers & Trailers,
WINKLINK, ARES-AUXCOM, ARRL**

Jim Graham Building,
NC State Fairgrounds
1025 Blue Ridge Rd,
Raleigh NC 27607
Latitude: 35.7936
Longitude: -78.71175
Talk in 146.64



Tickets: \$8, \$7 advance, age 16 and under *free*
Order tickets online at www.rars.org/hamfest

Want to help? For volunteer opportunities, see p. 14

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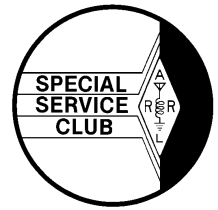
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The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the amateur radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, the society incorporated a new RARS and obtained 501(c)(3) non-profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through amateur radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic needs; to educate members in radio technique, and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining amateur radio licenses.



Anyone interested in amateur radio is eligible to apply for membership. Dues for regular licensed amateurs are \$18 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay \$5 each per year. Dues for licensed amateurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are \$12 per year. Dues for non-licensed associate members are \$9 per year. Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer or on the RARS website (www.rars.org).

Exciter

The *Exciter* is the official newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It appears each month as a PDF on the RARS website at www.rars.org. Members receive email notification when the latest version is available. Please provide your email address to the Treasurer.

The *Exciter* welcomes articles, advertisements, and other contributions. To submit a piece to the newsletter, please contact the Editor. The Editor reserves the right to edit any and all pieces. The submission deadline for each month's *Exciter* is the third Friday of the preceding month. All submissions must be final. Drafts are not accepted.

The views expressed in the *Exciter* are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or RARS.

Cathy Downs, KA3QPU, editor (editor@rars.org)

For Your Information

RARS General Meeting

Date: First Tuesday of each month
(except for January 2013)

Location: First Alliance Church
4400 Buffaloe Road
Raleigh, N.C.

Time: People begin arriving at 7 p.m.
The meeting officially begins at
7:30 p.m.

RARS Monthly Dinner

Join us on the second Tuesday of each month for the RARS dinner. It's open to everyone: RARS members, non-members, friends, and family. Feel free to bring your little ones! Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m.

Listen to the nightly RARS net and check www.rars.org for details on the next dinner's location.

RARS Repeaters in Raleigh

146.640 & 443.625 (88.5 PL)

Join us for the nightly RARS net at 8 p.m. on the 146.640 repeater. All hams holding a Technician class license or higher are invited to check in. We welcome both RARS and non-RARS members to the net.

VE Testing

The RARS VEs will accept walk-in testing at the February, May, August, and November RARS meetings; the RARSfest in April; the Cary Swapfest in July; the JARSfest in November; and following RARS license classes.

Please bring a photo ID, your current license, a copy of your current license, your \$14 exam fee, and any CSCEs you have for credit. Visit www.rars.org for

Message from the President

On behalf of our club, I thank Marty W4MY (Chair), Marc W4MPS (Awards Mgr), Paul AA4XX (Log Mgr), Andy AA9P ("IT Guy"), Joe WA4GIR (Clubs Mgr); and, Dwayne Ayers, N4MIO and Henry Heidtmann, W2DZO (Members-at-Large) for organizing and managing the 2013 NC QSO Party (NCQP). In addition, I thank Hank K4HM for helping the NCQP committee set up their pages on the RARS website.

Did you participate in the NCQP? I participated at the RARS club station, N4RAL, which was located at the home of Liz (KO4CK) and Joe (WA4GIR) White in Apex (Johnston County). In case you didn't know, N4RAL is the third, and most recently acquired, club call sign for RARS; the other two call signs are W4DW and W4RNC. We had a lot of fun, made a fair number of "Qs," and had enough time to enjoy some great homemade chili! Please consider joining us at the club station during the 2014 NCQP.

Please don't forget the upcoming RARS activities: RARSfest (3/30); the NC MakerFaire (6/15); ARRL Field Day (6/22-23); and the many public service events. For further information, please see the RARS website, www.rars.org.

Finally, our next club meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 5th. At this meeting, we will celebrate RARS' 44th birthday, present club awards, and have a presentation on RARSfest by John AI4RT (Chair). Please try to attend—the meeting should be informative, fun, and you may be receiving an award!

73, Karl W4CHX

New RARS Members

Raymond Lefrancois	KK4OOQ
Ryan Reed	N7RYN
Ben Whitehurst	AJ4NB

March Birthdays

Tim	KD4MBC	03/01
Marty	W4MY	03/02
Karl	W4CHX	03/06
Noble	N4UOQ	03/06
Sharon	KD4ACK	03/06
Bruce	WA9NEW	03/08
James	AJ4M	03/08
Jim	WA5APR	03/10
David	KF4VXJ	03/12
Bob	WA4ZZN	03/12
Pam	KK4IPN	03/13
Tom	KJ4ULP	03/14
Larry	K4LXV	03/17
Fred	KJ4RGB	03/19
Bill	K4WGE	03/20
Carl	W4HJZ	03/23
Greg	KE4PAX	03/23
Frank	NF2O	03/27
Bill	K4HVH	03/27
Alan	KK4HUX	03/30

You're Invited!

Public Service Forum: Good Samaritan Law

By John Snellen, AI4RT

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society would like to invite amateur radio operators to a public service forum at the monthly meeting Tuesday, April 2, at 7 p.m.

The featured presenter will be Mr. Thomas Henson, of HensonFuerst, P.A., a Raleigh attorney who will speak on the North Carolina Good Samaritan law and its implications to public service event volunteers.

Mr. Henson brings a unique perspective not only from a legal point of view but also that of his involvement as a board member of the ADA Tour de Cure, a very popular two-day fund raising bike ride and as a rider himself in numerous fund-raising events for other worthy causes.

Topics covered in the presentation will include:

- The liability of simple First Aid administered by untrained volunteers.
- What are some of our potential liabilities?
- How do we participate in public service events without risking liability problems?
- What about the use of our personal motor vehicles during events?

Mr. Henson will take questions from the floor as they pertain to this very important topic for all public service volunteer ham operators.

The meeting will be held at the First Alliance Church, 4400 Buffaloe Rd., Raleigh, N.C.

For further information, please contact John Snellen, AI4RT, RARS Public Service Coordinator.

Events, Hamfests & Conventions

2013 Charlotte Hamfest™ | Mar. 8-9

Location: Concord, NC

Website: <http://www.charlottehamfest.org>

Raleigh Hamfest | Mar. 30

Location: Raleigh, NC

Website: <http://www.rars.org/hamfest/>

Upstate Hamfest | May 4

Location: Spartanburg, SC

Website: <http://brars.org>

www.rars.org

Dayton Hamvention® | May 17-19

Location: Dayton, OH

Website: <http://www.hamvention.org>

Mid-Summer Swapfest | Jul. 20

Location: Cary, NC

Website: <http://www.qsl.net/n4nc/swapfest.html>

NC QSO Party Stories

The following articles describe the NC QSO Party from three different perspectives. If you wish to have your story published in next month's issue, email the editor at editor@rars.org. Thank you for your contribution!

Running with the NC QSO Party

By Charles Swindell, WB4DCM

About six months ago I purchased one of those computer logging programs. Now understand that I hate computers, so this was a big step for me. Anyway, the program has a master log and sub-logs to use for contests. Of course, I loaded (really my neighbor loaded) the NC QSO Party contest log.

This logging program is slick. All I do is enter the call; tab and enter state/providence/country; tab again and enter the NC county. The computer tracks the counties worked, states worked, Canadian providences, DX, band, mode, time, etc. Really slick.

So, Sunday morning I am fired up and ready. Made the first contact. Enter the call, tab and enter NC, and tab and entered the county. When I hit the whippie button, nothing. Perhaps I did not hit it hard enough. Again, nothing. Out comes the instruction manual. Those manuals are written by

www.rars.org

computer nerds for nerds. No help. Then, there it was. The "HELP" button right there. Did I mention about nerds writing this stuff? No help.

Flexibility is the key to any military operation. So I decide that I will hand write the info and then manually enter it into the master log. Slow! In the meantime I am losing contacts left and right. Time for a new plan. Turned off the computer, grabbed a stack of scratch paper and few pencils and "go for it." Remember, a paper and pencil will function correctly all the time.

Now I am really rolling, using technology that I understand. But then, I started working stations that I knew. Immediately I would forget their name and screw up my CW. My CW probably would more resemble the cross between a mumble and a stutter. Face it, I am not the world's fastest CW operator. When called by multiple stations, I would follow good procedure and respond to the slow guy!

The NC QSO Party was a lot of fun. Guess what? After I finished, I had to hand tally all of the counties, states, Canadian providences, DX, etc. After all of that was complete, I went back to the computer and it worked fine. I hate computers.



NC QSO Party

By David Crawford, KF4VXJ

After a conversation a few weeks ago with Bill Morine N2COP, the ARRL Section Manager for North Carolina, I decided to go mobile and operate on 2 meters FM for several hours of the contest. The idea was to give newly licensed hams with a technician license at least one contact for the contest in case all they had was VHF capability.

Idea was better than reality. I made only four contacts on 2 meters, one of which was Cliff Broughton, W4FT. Of the other three contacts, only one could be considered a "new" ham, located in Clayton. I operated for about three and a half hours from the parking area of Schenck Forest (NCSU) and a vacant lot I have access to.



See **NC QSO Party Stories**,
continued on p. 6

January Traffic Stats

RARS Two Meter Traffic/Ragchew Net

Check-ins: 555

Traffic: 34/26

Minutes: 540

Sessions: 31

Special Interest Nets

Check-ins: 84

Minutes: 405

Sessions: 12

A Very Good Day, Indeed

By Bob Starkenburg, W4TTX

It was a dark and stormy night.

I've always wanted to start a story that way, and it is true to some degree. The day before the 2013 NC QSO Party was wet, dreary, and cold. W4MY, Marty Young, and I had plans for operating mobile during the QSO Party. One idea was to leave Raleigh on Saturday and head out to Bryson City where we would stay overnight and then start out the QSO Party at the Topton Post office, running east across the state to Dare County.

Our second plan was to drive through the middle of the state starting in Vance County and working west to Surry County, then south to Davie county, then east to Chatham, south again to activate Lee and Harnett, then back to W4MY's QTH hitting Johnston, Wake, Wilson, Nash, and Franklin counties on the way. We would activate 19 counties in 10 hours with this route.

We opted for the second choice a few days before the contest because of the weather report and overall logistics. I should mention that this was the first time I had participated mobile for the full length of a contest. I had done many contests from home, but they were always in bits and pieces as time allowed. I have been to many Field Days, but again, the workload was always divided amongst a number of individuals to allow for sufficient R&R.

This time it was W4MY and me, in his truck, operating continuously for 10 hours in 2 1/2 hour shifts that alternated between driving and working the bands. It was my first contest as a mobile operator, and I was with a seasoned pro. Needless to say, I was looking forward to the challenge.

The day started out with a light mist falling and overcast skies, but as I drove from my house in Raleigh to meet W4MY the sun burned through the clouds and things started to improve.

I met Marty at his QTH in Zebulon around 8:00 a.m. I unloaded a few items from my truck, including a RARS APRS tracker that we were going to use during the trip, and a cooler with ice, drinks, and a few victuals to snack on during our 10-hour tour of NC.

Our mobile rig was Marty's 1999 Tacoma, or "the Gemini capsule" as he likes to call it due to the extremely cramped quarters. It is a trustworthy old vehicle that has logged many a mile on the road in QSO Parties and other forms of radiosport. The truck is equipped with an Icom 706 running 100 watts through a High Sierra 1800 Pro screwdriver antenna. An auto tuner links the antenna to the rig.

Our logging set-up was an old IBM Thinkpad with N1MM on board. We would run with the mic on vox to keep our hands free to enter stations in the log. The computer sat on a lapboard to allow use of a mouse, CW key, etc. Since we were running straight SSB we needed only the mouse.

In addition to the standard HF gear, we put the APRS tracker behind the passenger's seat. It was connected to a 17 Ah battery that sat next to it. We had a full wave 2m vertical nested in the bed of the truck via a trimag mount. I had programmed our route into my GPS unit, and we had that one, plus the APRS GPS unit on the windshield.

After securing the gear and the cooler we were off and running. As we drove up N.C. 39, the sun was now beaming and the sky was that beautiful Carolina blue that even N.C. State fans can appreciate. The clouds had all but gone.

Our first stop was for breakfast—our last full meal of the day before starting the contest. After consuming a "ham size" portion of food, we headed out for our first stop on our journey—Vance County.

We were running a little early so we parked at a gas station just inside the county line and got on the air with Marty's call sign to make sure

See **NC QSO Party Stories**, continued on p. 7

everything was operating. So far, so good. We sat there for a while making some casual contacts, then, at precisely 10:00 a.m. we hit the road and our operation was in full swing.

I was driving the first leg of the trip. Marty was on the radio searching for the active bands and accumulating a slow but steady number of contacts, first on 40 meters, then 20. We were on U.S. 158 in Henderson when our first little mishap occurred. It was not so much a mishap as one of those quirky little GPS route changes that make you scratch your head and say, “What the heck?”

If I had been following a map I would have simply stayed on U.S. 158, but the GPS had us turn onto a back street headed for who knows where. Putting my full faith and trust in technology (a dangerous move), I followed the seductive, synthesized female voice coming from the GPS through a series of small streets, eventually emerging back on U.S. 158. With a sigh of relief we were back on track and headed west.

About 10 miles west of Henderson I noticed that the APRS GPS had lost power. I suspected that some of the gear had shifted in the back of the Gemini capsule, so I pulled off the road to have a look. I should rephrase that. I pulled well off the road onto the grass to have a look. I climbed into the back and lo and behold my assumption was correct—the clips for the battery had come off due to movement of the load on the back.

I rearranged everything, climbed out of the back of the truck, and back in the driver’s seat. I put the truck into first gear, engaged the clutch, and heard that sound that no one likes to hear. Wzzzzzzz...the sound of wheels spinning pointlessly in the soft ground. Let me rephrase that. The very, very soft ground, i.e., mud.

I disengaged the clutch and let off on the gas. “OK, don’t panic,” I told myself. At the same time I was calming myself down I heard Marty yell out a four-letter reference to barnyard waste. He had forgotten that the vox on his headset was

still active and his expletive was broadcast far and wide on 20 meters. As his face turned a bright red, I straightened out the front wheels, engaged the clutch, and once again attempted to get back on the highway.

This time the “wzzzzzzz...” was accompanied by grudgingly slow forward motion that gave both our hearts delight. Slowly, steadily we moved forward turning towards the shoulder ever so carefully, and finally one of the rear wheels gripped the pavement. The truck was back on the road and we were back in business.

Life was good again. The Q’s were piling up. When 40 went long we changed to 20 meters. The sun was shining, and if we had the windows open I suspect we could have heard the proverbial birds singing. I was enjoying the view from the highway as Marty relentlessly tracked down contact after contact.

We were on a winding, hilly section of U.S. 158 when all of a sudden a small black and white mixed breed dog darted out in front of us. I slammed on the brakes and turned the wheel in an effort to avoid him. I would hazard a guess that this was not the first close encounter for this wiry little fellow because he also took appropriate evasive action. My adrenaline was pumping and I suspect his was as well.

Marty looked up the computer and asked, “Did we hit him?”

Happily, the Gemini capsule and the dog never did collide—he went his way and we went ours. I reassured Marty that the pup and the truck survived the encounter. He went back to operating, and I went back to driving.

The remainder of my first shift as driver was uneventful. At 12:30, we pulled over into a gas station for a pit stop, a momentary stretch, and a quick bite from the stash in the cooler. It was one of those small town gas stations with only two pumps (one of which did not work), and a less than sanitary unisex bathroom around the back.

Then we changed places. Marty took the wheel, I sat in the operator’s seat, and we were

See **NC QSO Party Stories**, continued on p. 8

back on the road.

We stayed on 20 meters for a good while after that, the Q's still coming in at a steady pace. I was calling CQ somewhere in Stokes County just west of Hanging Rock. A call came back from New Hampshire. It was a female voice. I gave her our exchange, "This is W4TTX/mobile, please copy Sierra Tango Oscar."

The female voice on the other end responded in an embarrassed tone, "OK, but I don't know what that means."

I told her that she had stumbled upon the NC QSO Party and that I was operating mobile with W4MY. We were in Stokes County and the abbreviation for the county was STO.

"Oh," she said. "I am from New York but am in New Hampshire right now visiting friends. It's snowing like mad up here." I taunted her with our weather that afternoon—clear skies, bright sun, and 60 degrees. A deep, male voice then took over from her end. He gave me his call sign, then started to rag chew.

"Nice to chat with you," he said. "There's a ton of snow on the ground up here. I am going to move the mic closer to the window so you can see," he said with a chuckle.

"Wow," I responded, "I can't remember when I've *heard* so much snow."

Four people, 800 miles away from each other, all broke out into a hearty laugh simultaneously. Now there's a reason to enjoy ham radio if there ever was one. We finished our QSO, Marty went back to concentrating on the road, and I went back to calling CQ and searching for more contacts amongst the noise.

At 3:00 p.m. we exchanged places again. Marty stopped at a gas station in Davidson County. This was no small town two pumper; this as a fully equipped, clean as a whistle, brightly lit, full-service 12 pumper. Marty filled the tank with gas and pulled a few items out of the cooler to munch on while I stayed on the radio. Our run frequency had dried up so I switched to the time honored "search and pounce" method of operation.

As I scanned the frequency I made a number of NC contacts. Then, by sheer luck, I hit gold. "This is W4DW calling CQ for the NC QSO Party."

My heart jumped—we already had two of the three bonus stations by that time, and this was the last one we needed. I tripped the vox with "W4TTX/mobile" and W4DW responded quickly. "Please copy Delta Victor Delta," I said. W4DW responded with his exchange, "ORA" for Orange county. The deal was sealed.

As we closed the Q, Marty came around to the passenger side to take over as operator. I showed him the contact with W4DW. "My work here is done," I said as I turned things back over to him. We both had another good laugh.

I took up the driving with Marty back on the rig. By then, 20 had gone long, so we tried 40 again with fair success. "CQ, CQ, CQ NC QSO Party. This is W4TTX/mobile calling CQ NC QSO Party." We drove on heading east on U.S. 64 then south on U.S. 421. I was enjoying the rolling pastures that characterize the Chatham county countryside.

Marty kept working the radio with his veteran style. As we neared the Chatham county line, Marty made another contact. During the exchange the contact stated that he had been participating in the contest all day and he needed only one more county to complete all 100 N.C. counties.

"Which county is that?" Marty asked. "Lee," said the voice on speaker.

"Well then, you're in luck," W4MY replied. "We will be in Lee County in about three minutes, so if you just stay where you are we can get the last county for you." Three minutes later we crossed into Lee County, the second QSO was initiated, and he left the airwaves a happy man with a 100 county sweep in his logbook.

We changed places for the final time around 5:00 p.m. Marty was in the driver's seat again, and I was on the radio for the last leg of our

See **NC QSO Party stories**, continued on p. 9

mobile odyssey. We eventually made our way from the smaller roads onto I-95, putting more miles behind us and more Q's in the log. It was the "Golden Hour," that magical time of day near sunset when the sky is a deep blue and the horizon a beautiful red/orange.

"This is the time of day that photographers and deer hunters live for," I remarked to W4MY. On this particular evening, a waxing gibbous moon was in the sky—a bright white jewel in a celestial crown. Contacts were becoming few and far between as the radio crackled on relentlessly. The static was punctuated only by my incessant "CQ, CQ."

We decided to switch to 80 meters, thinking things would be better. The volume of responses to my calls began to pick up. It was not overwhelming, but it was better. We drove through Johnston County, then Wilson, Nash, Wake, and Franklin counties. The call signs coming back to me were becoming familiar.

One thing I learned during this adventure is that a number of people will follow you along as you make your way from county to county. They were becoming old friends, although I could not remember their locations to save my life.

We finally made it back to Marty's QTH in Franklin County around 7:00 p.m. We had 383 contacts in the log and an hour to go in the contest. The Q's were dribbling in at an agonizingly slow rate. It was decision-time. Do we call it a day, or do we press on for another hour?

I told Marty that I would like to see 400 Q's in the log before we quit. I think that's what the old road warrior wanted to hear because, without hesitation, he told me that we would take U.S. 64 into Edgecombe County for our final run and our 20th county of the day. We backed out of his driveway and got back on the road. We stayed on 80 meters. I kept at it, "CQ, CQ NC QSO Party. This is W4TTX/mobile calling CQ."

It was slow in the beginning but then something magical happened. Folks were coming back to my CQs, first in small numbers, then in a

small pileup, then a larger pile up. The going got very heavy as we crossed into Edgecombe County. The pace was frantic at times as I tried to pull the calls out of the noise. One by one we got them in the log.

We drove out of Edgecombe close to 8:00 p.m. and back into Wilson. The flurry of calls began to dissipate, and for the last few minutes of the contest the speaker remained silent as I called CQ. No more takers. The well ran dry just as the contest was ending. We managed to log 434 QSOs after all was said and done, including all three bonus stations. I turned the radio off and shut the computer down. The little cabin of our Gemini capsule grew silent except for the gentle sound of the wind through the now open windows. After so long a time listening to radio noise, the silence was a welcome relief. We both took a few deep breaths as we began to relax.

"It was a good day," I told Marty, "a very good day, indeed."

Marty smiled and nodded in agreement as he steered the little Tacoma back towards home.



Don't miss this year's North Carolina QSO Party

Revised, more convenient operating time

14 newly designed First Place Plaques

VHF Added this year

Battleship North Carolina will be on the air - N14BK

Many rare counties to be activated

New Expedition Class plus additional QRP awards

New, easy log submission

73 es GL

visit
www.ncqsoparty.org
for
details

Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting Raleigh Amateur Radio Society January 15, 2013

Present: Bob KI4YXM, Greg KE4PAX, Bob W4TTX, Karl W4CHX, Don WA4AVU, Marty W4MY, Charles WB4DCM, John AI4RT, Ken WA4JJW, CJ NC4CJ, Chuck K4HF, Murray K4MHM.

Guests: David KF4VXJ

1. **Call to order (Karl W4CHX):** Karl W4CHX called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. **Approval of minutes (Karl W4CHX):** After discussion, the Minutes of the November 20, 2012 meeting of the RARS Board were approved.
3. The Chair recognized Ken WA4JJW as the new Public Information Officer and Murray K4MHM as the new Education Director.
4. **Vice President's report (CJ NC4CJ):** February meeting will be a presentation on the CY0 Sable Island DXpedition by Ron Oates, AA4VK and Murray Adams, WA4DAN; the March meeting will include discussion of RARSFest by John AI4RT; the April meeting will have a presentation on antenna analyzers; and, the June meeting presentation will be Field Day by Bob W4TTX.
5. **Treasurer's report (Greg KE4PAX):** RARS currently has 292 members; seventy-two (72) of last year's members have not renewed. There are 33 new members. If any RARS member has questions regarding the budget, please contact Greg KE4PAX or Karl W4CHX for more information.
6. **Secretary's report (Bob KI4YXM):** No report
7. **Committee reports:**
 - a. **Public Service Director (John AI4RT):** No report
 - b. **Public Information Officer (Ken WA4JJW):** Ken WA4JJW has agreed to be responsible for getting pictures of certificates and other awards included on the RARS website. He will also start developing a RARS brochure.
 - c. **Education Director (Murray K4MHM):** See new business.
 - d. **Field Day Chair (Bob W4TTX):** Bob W4TTX is starting to "gear up" for Field Day, including lining up band captains and working on other details.
 - e. **FM Repeater Chair (Karl W4CHX):** Karl W4CHX reviewed the status of equipment for the 145.13 and 444.525 repeaters, plus needed maintenance for the existing 146.64 repeater. He indicated that new controllers are needed for all 3 repeaters and for some installations, new UPS systems. Regarding the Bayleaf site, it has been decided that to repair the existing building. Cliff W4FT will be organizing work parties to get this done. After discussion, it was decided that the club's assets and efforts will be focused on the 146.64 and 145.13 repeaters until a better understanding of what additional costs, if any, will be required to complete all of the proposed upgrades (NOTE: this report and discussion were done later in the meeting).

- f. **RARSFest Chair (John AI4RT):** The next planning meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 28th. It was reported that the Wake County mobile command unit will not be present at RARSfest, but the Cary CERT may bring their vehicle. There is still a need for someone to run the special event station. Mary Jo K4MJL will be coordinating the Friday evening dinner.
- g. **Exciter Chair (Cathy KA3QPU):** Please send articles.
- h. **Hospitality Chair (Charles WB4DCM):** Charles WB4DCM is going to track attendance at club meetings using Excel.
- i. **Net Manager (Mary KG4OQA):** No report.
- j. **ARRL Liaison (Chuck K4HF):** No report.
- k. **At-Large Director (Don WA4AVU):** No report.
- l. **At-large Director (Jack N6UYB):** No report.
- m. **At-Large Director (Bill AK4BL):** No report.
- n. **W4DW/W4RNC Trustee (Jeff AC4ZO):** No report.
- o. **RARS VE Coordinators (Joe WA4GIR and Liz KO4CK):** No report.
- p. **RARS Webmaster (Hank K4HM):** No report.
- q. **North Carolina QSO Party (Marty W4MY):** Marty W4MY reported that the NC QSO Party (NCQP) is scheduled for Sunday, February 24th. An announcement postcard will be sent to last year's entrants. The battleship, USS North Carolina, will be operating during the NCQP. Other details were reported. Mark W4MPS is holding out 2 sponsorships for RARS to have 1st right-of-refusal to sponsor. Bob W4TTX made the motion, and it was seconded, that RARS sponsor both awards at a cost of \$90.00. The motion was passed.

8. **Old business:**

Insurance coverage for RARS (Greg KE4PAX): Equipment inventory is still being updated.

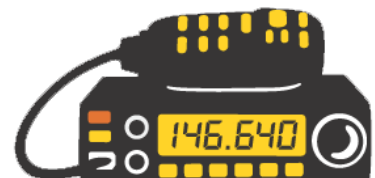
9. **New business:**

Technician licensing classes (Murray K4MHM): Murray K4MHM reported that two (2) technician licensing classes were being planned. The first class will be provided (primarily) for the Cary CERT team. The second class is for a group of NC State students who are planning a weather balloon project and need the ability to communicate and control the balloons. The fees for the classes were discussed. The consensus of the Board was that after the class at NC State has been completed, RARS should make a donation to the group to offset the class expenses.

10. **Any other business:** There was no other business.

11. **Board member's comments:** None.

12. **Adjournment (Karl W4CHX):** The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 p.m.



Minutes

General Membership Meeting Raleigh Amateur Radio Society February 5, 2013

1. **Call to order (CJ NC4CJ):** CJ presided as Karl was unable to attend. The meeting was called to order at 7:31 p.m. There were 72 individuals in attendance. The following guests were introduced: Don N8DDK, Gil WA3K, Amy KJ4DND, Robert W4MBD
2. **Approval of minutes (CJ NC4CJ):** The Minutes of the RARS General Membership meeting on January 8 2013 were approved as presented.
3. **Vice President's report (CJ NC4CJ):** Deferred to later in the meeting.
4. **Treasurer's report (Greg KE4PAX):** Greg KE4PAX reported that RARS has 291 members. If any RARS member has any questions, please contact Greg KE4PAX or Karl W4CHX for further information.
5. **Announcements (CJ NC4CJ):**
 - a. **Upcoming RARS events and hamfests:** CJ NC4CJ reminded everyone to see the Exciter and the ARRL website for further information.
 - b. **After meeting gathering:** The after meeting gathering will be held at Applebee's, Six Forks and Wake Forest Roads (by the Costco).
6. **Reports from RARS Board members and others:**
 - a. **RARSFest (John AI4RT):** John AI4RT asked for volunteers to work at RARSFest.
 - b. **NC QSO Party (Marty W4MY):** Marty had an NCQP video. RARS will field two stations. A station for seasoned pros and novices with contesting.
 - c. **Frank N4FRP Wake ARES coordinator** reminded everyone that all hams responding to emergency situations must complete FEMA Incident Command courses.
 - d. **Public Service (John AI4RT)** reminded us of upcoming events. The first event is 3/2/13 Odyssey of the Mind. Check the RARS website for other events.
 - e. **Field Day (Bob W4TTX)** briefly discussed plans for field day, June 22 - 23. He will have the antenna launching contest.

- f. **Larry Dean (Organizer of many of the MS bike rides):** Larry reminded everyone of the next ride, the April 6th MS Spring fling. He presented a check to RARS for \$100.00 to honor our past participation in MS events.
7. **Any other business:** New business. Cliff needs volunteers to work on fixing building at Bayleif.
8. **Drawing:** The winner of the drawing was Virginia NC4VA.
9. **Vice President's report (CJ NC4CJ):** CJ NC4CJ reported that the February meeting topic will be the 2012 Sable Island CY0 DXpedition, which will be presented by Ron Oates, AA4VK and Murray Adams, WA4DAN.
10. **Program:** Ron AA4VK and Murray WA4DAN made a presentation about their Sable Island CY0 DXpedition.
11. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:55 p.m.



Attention All Seasoned Hams

QCWA Quarterly Luncheon Scheduled

By Chuck Littlewood, K4HF

The Quarterly Century Wireless Association Piedmont Chapter 126 will hold its first quarter luncheon meeting March 16 at 11:30 a.m. at McCall's BBQ and Seafood Restaurant, Clayton, N.C. **All members and guests** are welcome.

Our guest speaker will be Terry Rogers, WA4BVY, of Chapel Hill who will present a program about "Recognizing and Producing Optimum SSB/AM Communications Quality Audio."

More info on our organization is available at: www.qcwa.org and for the local Piedmont Chapter: www.qsl.net/qcwa126. Local Raleigh



contacts include Chuck, K4HF, and Charlie, WB4DCM.

For directions to the restaurant, visit www.mccallsbbq.com. Follow the Directions link at top right. Be sure to change the drop down box to indication directions for the Clayton location! The telephone number is [919-550-3877](tel:919-550-3877).

RARS Classifieds

RARS Members: [Post](#) a new 30 day listing or [Edit](#) your current listings at www.rars.org/classifieds.php. The items below were listed within the last 30 days.

Ten Tec Paragon II For Sale

Posted February 17th, 2013 by: W4AUV

Contact: w4auv@bellsouth.net

Ten Tec Paragon II For Sale. I am the original owner. Very clean with original manual and ALL optional filters. \$700.

WANTED: Radio Shack/Realistic HTX-10/100

Posted February 14th, 2013 by: AJ4HK

Contact: aj4hk@hotmail.com

Looking for a radio shack 10 meter mobile, Reasonably priced.

919-526-2860 or 919-413-5998.

Dennis

aj4hk

Heil Proset 6

Posted February 12th, 2013 by: W4MY

Contact: w4my@reagan.com

Like new, Heil Proset headset with HC-6 mic element. This is the wide range mic for high fidelity. Also has the receive audio phase reversal switch to enhance listening. \$100. Used very little, Like new in box. Thanks, Marty

For Sale: Kenwood TS-850 transceiver with CW filters, mike, power cords, manual and original box: \$700.

Kenwood SP-520 speaker: \$30.

Kenwood MC-50 desk mike (with connector cable): \$60.

Murray, K4MHM: mmmm0320@gmail.com

Volunteer at RARSfest!

By John Snellen, AI4RT

It's that time of year again! RARSfest is only a few weeks away, and, as always we need your help to make **our** hamfest another great success.

We need volunteers to help in a number of different areas.

The largest crew needed is **Security**, followed by **Admissions** and **Set-up**. The **Youth Lounge** would like your help, if only to stop by for an hour or so, enjoy the atmosphere of our future generation of hams and participate in some of the many activities offered.

We always need help to prepare our Friday dinner for our vendors and members. It is easy to volunteer for two hours... then enjoy RARSfest for the rest of the day.

Please check out the volunteer possibilities available, pick one or two and volunteer by clicking on the link at the bottom of the RARSfest webpage (www.rars.org/hamfest) and most of all...*enjoy* RARSfest!



LOCAL AMATEUR RADIO NETS

The **Apex Emergency Response Communications Net** meets weekly each Sunday at 9 p.m. on the 146.640 repeater. The purpose of the net is to assist ham radio operators in preparing to respond to emergencies, test their equipment, improve operating skills, pass traffic, and to provide those with a common interest an opportunity to meet. The Apex ERC Net provides amateur radio emergency communications for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints' disaster relief efforts. All stations are invited to participate in this net.

Please join us on the **Carolina 440 Net** every Monday night at 7:30 p.m. This ragchew net utilizes the Carolina 440 UHF Link Repeater System. Comprised of the Raleigh, Down East, and Coastal Wilmington link systems, there are currently 19 repeaters on the system, covering 21,168 square miles. For a list of these repeaters, please visit www.carolina440.net.

Please join us each Tuesday at 9:15 p.m. on the 146.880 repeater for the **Central Carolina SKYWARN** net. On each net there are announcements, check-ins by county, and often a program or training spot. Check us out at www.centralcarolinaskywarn.net.

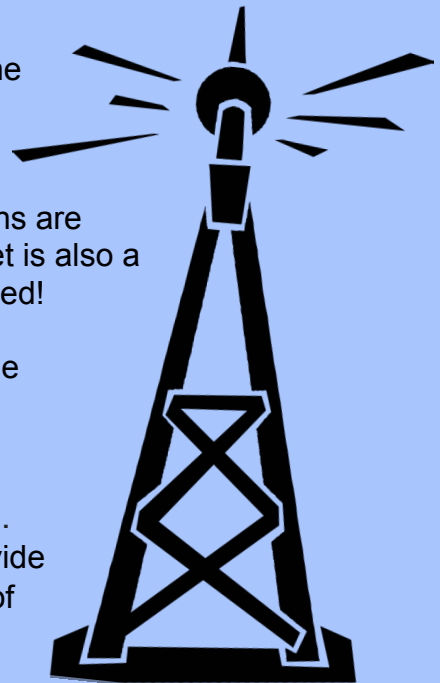
The **PCTN (Piedmont Costal Traffic Net)** meets daily at 9 p.m. on the 146.880 repeater. The purpose of the net is to handle/pass NTS formal messages. Amateur stations are encouraged to check in and participate. The backup repeater is the 147.105 (PL tone 82.5).

The **RARS Technical & Trader's Net** is held on Saturday evenings on the 146.640 repeater at 8:30 p.m.

Join us every evening at 8 p.m. on the 146.640 repeater for the **RARS Two-Meter Net**. You can give a ragchew, check in and out (this counts for our total numbers reported to the ARRL!), make announcements, and pass traffic. We also offer National Traffic System traffic training. All licensed stations are welcome to participate in the net as often as they can. This net is also a great way to learn about amateur radio if you are newly licensed!

The **VOIP Hurricane Net** is held Sundays at 00:00 UTC on the 146.775 repeater with a tone of 88.5 (IRLP node 4260). For information about activation details, go to www.voipwx.net.

The **Wake County ARES Net** meets Thursdays at 9:15 p.m. (after the PCTN TrafficNet) on the 146.88 repeater. We provide discussion and training for the implementation and provision of emergency communications for our served agencies, such as the American Red Cross and the local and state Emergency Operations Center. Please join us. For more information please visit <http://www.wakeares.org>.



Want to be a Published Writer?

Everyone has a favorite aspect of amateur radio. From contests to antenna building, there's something for everyone. Why not share your interests, expertise, and experience with RARS in the *Exciter*? We welcome member and non-member/affiliate submissions.

Both technical and non-technical articles are needed for the *Exciter*. You could write up a quick column on QSL cards or a longer how-to piece on setting up a new shack. And don't feel pressured to write a novel; articles of all sizes are appreciated!

To submit an article, simply email your piece to the Editor (editor@rars.org). Please also feel free to attach pictures to accompany your article. It is helpful if you add captions and identify the people in photographs, and have their permission to use their image.



RARS Classifieds

Want to add a new radio to your shack? Have an antenna for sale? Browse the RARS classifieds for new and used radio equipment at <http://rars.org/classifieds.php> or see p. 10 of this newsletter for current listings.

RARS members may post notices about equipment they are selling. Posts last for 30 days and are editable at any time.

Using our classifieds is a great way for buyers to search for available items and for sellers to reach a local, targeted audience.

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's

EXCITER

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Raleigh, NC 27619

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